CLAIMS:

1. A reproduction apparatus for replaying a signal encoded in a stream of data, the apparatus comprising

- an interface to a storage medium (10), for reading data from the storage medium (10), the storage medium (10) storing segments (22a-d) of data of variable length, each particular segment (22a-d) containing reproducible signal data from the stream encoded with a variable length encoding scheme and first and second information about the length of the signal data in the particular segment (22a-d), stored at predetermined relative positions with respect to the start and end of the signal data in the particular segment (22a-d);
- a control input for receiving a selection of a direction of replay;
- an access location computation unit (12), arranged to compute an access location in the storage medium (10), for accessing a next succeeding or preceding segment (22a-d) adjacent to a particular segment (22a-d) when a forward and backward direction are selected respectively, the computation unit (12) computing the access location from the first information from the particular segment (22a-d) or the second information from the adjacent segment (22a-d) that precedes the particular segment (22a-d), dependent on whether the forward or backward direction is selected respectively.

2. A method of reading signal data from stream data stored in a storage medium (10) for replay of the signal data in a selectable play direction, wherein the stream data is stored in the storage medium (10) as a sequence of segments (22a-d) of variable length, each particular segment (22a-d) comprising reproducible signal data encoded with a variable length encoding scheme and first and second information about the length of the signal data in the particular segment (22a-d), stored at predetermined relative positions with respect to the start and end of the signal data in the particular segment (22a-d), the method comprising retrieving the first and second information to access adjacent segments (22a-d) for computing access locations during replay in a forward and backward play direction respectively.

3. A method of storing stream data containing reproducible signal data in a storage medium (46), wherein the stream data comprises a sequence of segments (22a-d) of

variable length, each segment (22a-d) comprising signal data encoded with a variable length encoding scheme, the method comprising storing first and second information about the length of the signal data in each particular segment (22a-d) in the particular segment (22a-d) at predetermined relative positions with respect to a start and an end of the signal data of each of said particular segment (22a-d) respectively.

4. A method according to Claim 3, comprising encrypting the stream in individually decryptable blocks of predetermined length and including a respective number greater than one of said segments (22a-d) in each block, the respective numbers being selected dependent on the length of the segments (22a-d), each particular block containing the first and second information of all segments (22a-d) in the particular block.

5. A method according to Claim 3, comprising storing a plurality of frames in each segment (22a-d), including a variable length first frame containing signal data and a second frame with said second information, following the first frame.

6. An apparatus for storing stream data containing reproducible signal data in a storage medium (46), wherein the stream data comprises a sequence of segments (22a-d) of variable length, each segment (22a-d) comprising signal data encoded with a variable length encoding scheme, the apparatus being arranged to store first and second information about a length of the signal data in each particular segment (22a-d) in the particular segment (22a-d) at predetermined relative positions with respect to a start and an end of the signal data in the particular segment (22a-d) respectively.

7. A medium carrying a stream data containing signal data for time sequential reproduction, wherein the stream comprises a sequence of segments (22a-d) of variable length, each segment (22a-d) comprising signal data encoded with a variable length encoding scheme, each particular segment (22a-d) containing first and second information about the length of the signal data in the particular segment (22a-d) at predetermined relative positions with respect to a start and an end of the signal data in the particular segment (22a-d) respectively.

8. A medium according to Claim 7, comprising individually decryptable encrypted blocks of predetermined length, each including a respective number of said

segments (22a-d), each block containing the first and second information of all segments in the block.

9. A medium according to Claim 7, comprising a plurality of frames in each segment (22a-d), the frames in each segment (22a-d) including a variable length first frame containing signal data and a second frame with said second information, following the first frame.